


L. Long

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Health of the West Kesteven
Rural District

BY THE
Medical Officer of Health
C. W. SHEARER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE
REPORT OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector
J. DEAN, F.F.S.(Eng.), Cert. R.S.I.

1955

Palmers Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., Swinegate, Grantham

West Kesteven Rural District Council

Reconstituted under the Parts of Kesteven (Alteration of
Districts and Parishes) Order, 1930.

List of Parishes

Allington	Hougham
Ancaster	Hough-on-the-Hill
Barkston	Ingoldsby
Barrowby	Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby
Belton and Manthorpe	Little Ponton and Stroxton
Bitchfield and Bassingthorpe	Londonthorpe and
Boothby Pagnell	Harrowby Without
Braceby and Sapperton	Long Bennington
Burton Coggles	Marston
Carlton Scroop	Normanton
Caythorpe	North Witham
Claypole	Old Somerby
Colsterworth	Pickworth
Denton	Ropsley and Humby
Easton	Sedgebrook
Fenton	Skillington
Foston	South Witham
Fulbeck	Stoke Rochford
Great Gonerby	Stubton
Great Ponton	Syston
Gunby and Stainby	Welby
Harlaxton	Westborough and Dry
Heydour	Doddington
Honington	Woolsthorpe
	Wyville-cum-Hungerton

WEST KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health and Waterworks Committee, 1955.

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor Major H. R. E. E. WELBY, C.M.G., J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor J. F. DODDS.

MEMBERS :

Alderman F. J. JENKINSON, J.P., (Ex-officio)

„ J. W. MILNER, J.P. (Ex-officio)

Councillor C. B. BAILEY, J.P.

„ Sir H. J. F. S. CHOLMELEY, Bart., D.S.O.,
D.L., J.P.

Alderman G. A. JENKINSON

Councillor G. C. PORTER

„ H. MARTIN

„ G. NUSSEY

„ R. L. NEWTON

„ Major D. E. DIXON

„ B. SHIPMAN

„ Mrs. F. H. NORMAN

„ A. V. SHEARDOWN

„ W/Cdr. A. E. F. McCREARY

„ T. W. ALLEN

„ S. CLARKE

„ J. A. DALE

„ W. S. E. PURCHASE

„ W. WRIGHT

„ H. H. BROWNLOW

„ R. H. PACEY

„ Lt. Col. L. WOOD, M.C.

Housing and Town and Country Planning
Committee, 1955

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor W/Cdr. A. E. F. McCREARY

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor A. V. SHEARDOWN

MEMBERS :

Alderman	F. J. JENKINSON, J.P. (Ex-officio)
„	G. A. JENKINSON
„	J. W. MILNER, J.P. (Ex-officio)
Councillor	C. B. BAILEY, J.P.
„	W. S. E. PURCHASE
„	Major H. R. E. E. WELBY, C.M.G., J.P.
„	H. MARTIN
„	G. NUSSEY
„	Lt. Col. L. WOOD, M.C.
„	J. C. RICKETT
„	Mrs. F. H. NORMAN
„	J. A. DALE
„	R. S. CLARK
„	G. HIGGINS
„	H. D. STONE
„	Sir D. Le MARCHANT
„	F. JENKINSON
„	Mrs. W. H. D. ELNOR
„	R. H. PACEY
„	A. C. SERGEANT
„	B. STORER
„	Mrs. F. M. RANSOME
„	R. MERRICK
„	B. SHIPMAN
„	Mrs. C. L. JACQUES

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. W. SHEARER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. DEAN, F.F.S. (Eng.) Cert. R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

M. F. JOHNSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

J. LUCAS, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.

Technical Assistant :

N. F. HEADLAND

Clerks :

J. R. CLARKE

J. I. GORDON

Mrs. D. M. WILKS

Miss M. E. ELDRED

WEST KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1955.

Population (estimated for the year)	18,300
Area	122,406 acres
Rateable value	£74,617
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	£289

					Total	Males	Females
LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	324	166	158
STILL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	7	4	3
BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	17.7	per 1,000	population	
Average for England & Wales				15.0	per 1,000	population	
INFANT DEATHS							
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
INFANTILE DEATH RATE				18.5	per 1,000	live births	
Average for England & Wales				24.9	per 1,000	live births	
DEATH RATE							
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	9.6	per 1,000	population	
Death Rate							
(corrected for age & sex)				9.6	per 1,000	population	
Average for England & Wales				11.7	per 1,000	population	
					Total	Males	Females
TOTAL DEATHS at all ages	...	...	...	...	176	94	82

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
19, Watergate,
Grantham.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the West Kesteven Rural District for the year 1955.

It will be noted that the Infant Mortality Rate was only half that of 1954. With such small figures, a large amount of variation due to chance is to be expected, nevertheless the fall is highly satisfactory. The table of infant deaths by cause shows a rather surprising fact viz: that half the infant deaths were due to pneumonia and bronchitis. Though great strides have been made in the conquest of infectious disease, it is still by no means a negligible factor in Infant Mortality.

The birth rate was slightly higher, and the death rate virtually the same as in 1954. The table of causes of death shows little change as compared with last year, the only notable features being the increase of deaths due to pneumonia and bronchitis (from 5 to 17) and to road accidents (from Nil to 5).

There was a very large increase in notifications of measles; this was merely due to the well known two yearly cycle of that disease.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified. Fortunately there was no paralysis.

There was a decrease in both notifications of, and deaths due to, tuberculosis.

During the year a start was made on the slum clearance programme. This will involve the rehousing of large numbers of people from condemned properties. Many of these are old people and the great need is for two-bedroomed bungalows to accommodate them. The provision of more bungalows would also help to free three-bedroomed houses for younger couples with families.

The 'Problem' families, though few in number, cause many headaches to the officials of this and other departments. The housing of such families is often extremely difficult and I think it would be worth while for the Council to acquire suitable old property to be improved and used for this purpose.

A third group presenting a special housing problem is that of old people who are too infirm to manage a normal house. I believe that something on 'Almshouse' lines is required for them, i.e. a number of small houses grouped together, with a resident warden.

When a further stage of infirmity is reached, compulsory removal to a hospital or institution under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act has to be considered. I investigated one case during the year, in which two old persons suffering from severe chronic disease were living in insanitary conditions. Fortunately they agreed to go to hospital and a place was found for them through the good offices of the County Welfare Officer, so that compulsory measures were unnecessary.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the Council, and in particular the Health Committee, Mr. Cox, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Dean and all his staff for their unfailing courtesy and help throughout the year.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. SHEARER,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year were :—

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Diptheria		Pneumonia		Polio-myelitis		Erysipelas		Puer-peral Pyrexia		Meningo-coccal Meningitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1 year		1		1	6	6												
1— 2 years			4	4	20	19												
3— 4 years			2	2	20	30			1									
5— 9 years	5	5	6	8	67	58					1							
10—14 years					11	10												
15—24 years						1												
25 and over			1		1				3	2					2			
Age unknown																		
TOTAL	5	6	13	15	125	124			4	2	1				2			

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Deaths during 1955.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.								
1— 5 years								
5—10 years								
10—15 years								
15—20 years	1	1						
20—25 years		1		1				
25—35 years		3						
35—45 years								
45—55 years								
55—65 years	1							
65 and upwards							1	
Age unknown								
TOTAL	2	5		1			1	

INFANT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Day	1—7 Days	1—4 Weeks	Total Under 4 Wks	1—3 Mths	3—12 Mths	Total Under 1 Year
Premature Birth ..	1			1			1
Malformation ..			1	1			1
Birth Injuries							
Pneumonia & Bronchitis					2	1	3
Enteritis & Diarrhoea ..							
Other Causes					1		1
TOTAL ..	1		1	2	3	1	6

1955

CAUSES OF DEATH						M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	11	10	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	12	7	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	22	21	43
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	1	10	11
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	9	7	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
All causes						94	82	176

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

Sanitary Inspector and
Surveyor's Department,
Council Offices,
19, Watergate,
Grantham.

To the Chairman and Members of the
West Kesteven Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

The only excuse I can offer for the delay in submitting the report is that the work which my Department has been and still is doing, towards the improvement of the health and comfort of the people in the district, is in my opinion, of greater importance than quoting past history.

I am very pleased with the efforts of my staff and the volume of work turned out in twelve months. When one looks back at the preparatory works to water supply, sewerage, and housing schemes, apart from the work involved in the carrying out of the schemes, the inspection and clearance of unfit houses, the regular routine of meat inspection the management of over 800 houses, together with the numerous other duties one is expected to fulfill, I am often amazed that the results are so successful considering the number of staff available, both technical and clerical. Of course these results can only be achieved with co-operation of the other Departments and my thanks are also due to them and in particular to the support and assistance rendered by the Clerk of the Council, the Accountant and the Medical Officer.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DEAN,
Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.

HOUSING 1955

1.—Dwelling Houses Inspected.

(a) Inspections for Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	260
(b) Dwelling-houses found unfit	...	...	...	...	44
(c) Dwelling-houses found not fit in all respects	...	...	...	...	219
(d) Re-inspections and visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	80
(e) Re-Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	2
(f) New Buildings (Supervision under Building Byelaws)	...	...	...	...	125
(g) Re Council House Repairs	...	...	...	...	473
(h) Housing Sites, Surveys, Inspections of works in progress	..	...	...	...	549
(i) Temporary Housing	...	...	...	...	30
					<hr/> 1782 <hr/>

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	...	...	...	...	74
(b) Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	15

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936*

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	—
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—
(d) By owners	...	...	...	...	—

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notice	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	—
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—
(d) By owners	...	...	...	...	—

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	31
(b) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	2

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	15
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	1

SUMMARY OF OTHER INSPECTIONS

Factories :—

(a) With mechanical power	5
(b) Without mechanical power	—
Slaughter-houses and Knackers Yards	605

Food Preparing Premises :—

(a) Fried Fish Shops	1
(b) Ice Cream Premises	2
(c) Other Premises	19
Cowsheds and Dairies	—
Milk Samples for analysis	16
Stables and Piggeries	1
Petroleum Stores	8
Water Supply	171
Water Samples for analysis	551
Sewer Dykes and Sewage Disposal Works	264
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Disinfections	11
Verminous Premises and Disinfestations	15

Drainage :—

(a) Colour tested	10
(b) Water tested	42
(c) Smoke tested	8
(d) Inspected	52
Scavenging Work	118
Tents, Vans and sheds	9
Camping Sites	—

Special Surveys :—

(a) Water Supply	287
(b) Scavenging	—
(c) Sewage Disposal	291
(d) Rural Housing Survey	287
Town and Country Planning, Inspections	7
Miscellaneous	60

WATER SUPPLY

The end of 1955 saw the provision of an adequate and safe supply of water to the district nearing completion, with only ten parishes out of 47 still to be served. When compared with the position in 1946, when only 5 parishes were supplied, this can be considered as a most satisfactory achievement. Of the remaining ten parishes, Boothby Pagnell, Easton and Stoke Rochford are served by private estate supplies but as the source of supply in each case is of doubtful quality and is not treated in any way, it is recommended that these supplies should be chlorinated or replaced by providing a supply from the Council's sources by extension of mains.

The quality of the raw water from the Lenton borehole still caused some concern as will be seen from the tabulated results. A second borehole sunk further to the south of the first on a site considered to be geologically more satisfactory and further removed from possible pollution only produced the same results. The yield was comparable with the first but unfortunately so were the bacteriological reports on the samples of water obtained. As has previously been stated the Lincolnshire limestone is notorious for its pollution problems and the bores at Lenton and Laughton Lodges are no exception. It would appear that previous conclusions that the source of pollution is some distance from the bores is correct and careful check is now being made at the various "Swallow holes" in the limestone which receive surface water with a view to tracing possible pollution at these points and tracing the underground flow. Meanwhile, it will be seen from the tabulated results of the examination of water in supply, that close attention has been paid to treatment. Only 1.7% of the samples examined fell into categories 3 and 4 and all samples were taken from consumers taps at varied points on the distribution system with particular attention to "Dead ends" of mains where deterioration may occur.

The Belton supply, which is collected by under drains in the gravel beds near the River Witham, was again seen to vary in quality and at times showed evidence of gross faecal pollution. In the case of this source, pollution is noticeable after heavy rain, and it would undoubtedly be improved if the owners of the collection area were to cease using the land for cattle grazing. Here the samples of water examined in supply were found to be 100% satisfactory as were the samples from the distribution mains from the Motherford Spring supply.

The development of new supplies is noted from a comparison of

water consumption from the Council's own sources and bulk purchases :

			1954	1955
			Thousand galls.	Thousand galls.
Council sources	...	...	43,497	51,625
Bulk Purchase	...	...	63,677	77,713
Totals			107,174	129,338
Sold to other Authorities	...		8,957	19,293
Consumption in Rural District			98,217	110,045

BACTERIOLOGICAL EX

		JANUARY					FEBRUARY				MARCH				APRIL				MAY			
		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22
Borehole LENTON	Coli-aegns count p 100 mls at 37°C in 48 hrs.		7	35		180 +	8	25	8	8		160	25	5	90	3	25	5	3	25	90	
	Faecal coli count p 100 mls at 44°C in 48 hrs.		5	35		50	5	25	5	8		160	25	2	50	3	3				50	
Spring MOTHERFORD	Coli-aegns count p 100 mls at 37°C in 48 hrs.		5	11		0	1	8	0	5		1	0	1	0	3	0		0	0	0	0
	Faecal coli count p 100 mls at 44°C in 48 hrs.		5	5		0	1	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	3	0		0	0	0	0
Borehole OLD SOMERBY	Coli-aegns count p 100 mls at 37°C in 48 hrs.	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Faecal coli count p 100 mls at 44°C in 48 hrs.	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spring BELTON	Coli-aegns count p 100 mls at 37°C in 48 hrs.		5	1	3	0	1	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	1
	Faecal coli count p 100 mls at 44°C in 48 hrs.		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spring SKILLINGTON	Coli-aegns count p 100 mls at 37°C in 48 hrs.		0	0		0	1	0		0		0	1	0	5	0	0			0	0	0
	Faecal coli count p 100 mls at 44°C in 48 hrs.		0	0		0	1	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0

ATIONS—(i) RAW WATERS

JUNE			JULY					AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER					NOVEMBER				DECEMBER			
2	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25
0	180 +	13	35	25	35	13	13		180 +	180 +	180 +	90	180 +	180 +	160	180 +	160	180 +	160	180 +	180 +	160	160	17	90	20	180 +	160
3	180 +	13	8	13	3	8	3		50	180 +	90	8	180 +	180 +	25	180 +	20	90	17	90	35	50	160	3	13	3	180 +	50
0	0	0	2	5	17	3	2		0	1	2	160	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	90	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
0	0	0	1	0	17	1	0		0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	90	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	25 +	180 +	5	90	5	13	2	0	17	5	8	50	2	35		3	8	11	5	2				0	0	1	1	0
	25 +	180 +	3	90	0	3	2	0	8	1	0	35	1	3		2	5	11	1	2				0	0	1	1	0
	0		1	0	1	0	0		0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2	0	0		0	0	
	0		1	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2	0	0		0	0	

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
PUMPED	Lenton	2028	1665	1685	2100	1720	1725	2292	1800	1780	1970	1545	1940	22,250
	North Witham	1449	1157	1170	1412	1082	1038	1450	1150	1196	1394	1122	1519	15,139
	Old Somerby	124	103	110	153	91	93	126	110	91	104	82	109	1,296
	Skillington	250	200	200	250	229	199	252	210	195	241	190	257	2,673
	Belton	1058	716	695	788	702	756	1195	900	944	929	726	858	10,267
BOUGHT	TOTALS	4909	3841	3860	4703	3824	3811	5315	4170	4206	4638	3665	4683	51,625
	Grantham W. W. Co. ..	3782	4348	5534	4931	5212	5075	5842	5775	5777	5826	6139	6129	64,370
	Newark Borough	480	383	383	383	420	390	544	424	425	535	610	530	5,507
	North Kesteven R.D.C. ..	543	753	610	660	740	560	765	590	615	723	646	631	7,836
	TOTAL BOUGHT	4805	5484	6527	5974	6372	6025	7151	6789	6817	7084	7395	7290	77,713
SOLD	TOTAL AVAILABLE	9714	9325	10387	10677	10196	9836	12466	10959	11023	11722	11060	11973	129,338
	Melton & Belvoir R.D.C.	802	801	802	801	802	801	802	801	802	801	802	802	9,618
	Air Ministry	806	806	807	806	806	807	806	806	807	806	806	806	9,675
	TOTAL SOLD	1608	1607	1609	1607	1608	1608	1608	1607	1609	1607	1607	1608	19,293
	TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	8106	7718	8778	9070	8588	8228	10858	9352	9414	10115	9453	10365	110,045

Bacteriological Examinations

(ii) Treated Waters

Source of Supply	Place of Sampling	Category			
		1	2	3	4
Belton	Barkston	47	—	—	—
Lenton	Bitchfield	16	—	—	—
	Braceby	4	—	—	—
	Sapperton	9	—	—	—
	Burton Coggles	11	—	—	—
	Ingoldsby	10	—	—	—
	Lenton	11	—	—	—
	Pickworth	11	—	—	—
	Ropsley	39	—	1	1
North Witham	Colsterworth	47	2	—	—
	North Witham	6	1	—	—
	South Witham	5	—	—	—
	Gunby & Stainby	5	—	—	—
Old Somerby	Old Somerby	43	2	1	1
Skillington		47	3	—	—
	Skillington	311	8	2	2

Details of the number of Dwelling-houses supplied from the public water mains (a) direct to houses, and (b) by means of stand-pipes, are as follows :—

						DIRECT	STANDPIPE
Allington	...	...	...	...	...	99	—
Ancaster	...	...	...	...	...	100	—
Barkston	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Barrowby	...	...	...	...	...	162	—
Belton and Manthorpe			...	...	...	—	—
Bitchfield and Bassingthorpe				...	...	41	—
Boothby Pagnell		...	...	...	...	—	—
Braceby and Sapperton			...	...	...	22	—
Burton Coggles		...	...	...	...	44	—
Carlton Scroop		...	...	...	...	—	—
Caythorpe	...	...	...	...	...	248	—
Claypole	...	...	...	...	...	209	—
Colsterworth	...	...	...	...	...	300	—
Denton	...	...	...	...	...	70	—
Easton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Fenton	...	...	...	...	...	20	—
Foston	...	...	...	...	...	120	—
Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	183	—
Great Gonerby		...	...	...	...	334	—
Great Ponton	...	...	...	...	...	40	—
Gunby and Stainby	...	...	...	...	...	56	—
Harlaxton	...	...	...	...	...	164	—
Heydour	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Honington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Hougham	...	...	...	...	...	50	—
Hough-on-the-Hill		...	...	...	...	110	—
Ingoldsby	...	...	...	...	...	67	—
Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby				...	...	105	—
Little Ponton and Stroxtun	...			...	...	3	—
Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without					...	—	—
Long Bennington		...	...	...	...	305	—
Marston	...	...	...	...	...	70	—
Normanton	...	...	...	...	...	30	—
North Witham		...	...	...	...	45	—
Old Somerby	...	...	...	...	...	55	—
Pickworth	...	...	...	...	...	33	—
Ropsley and Humby	...	...	...	...	...	170	—
Skillington	...	...	...	...	...	100	—
South Witham	...	...	...	...	...	135	—
Stoke Rochford		...	...	...	...	—	—
Stubton	...	...	...	...	...	40	—
Syston	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Welby	...	...	...	...	...	7	70
Westborough and Dry Doddington					...	93	—
Woolsthorpe	...	...	...	...	...	160	—
Wyville-cum-Hungerton			...	...	...	6	—
				Totals		3796	70

HOUSING

The rate of completing new houses was maintained during the year with 117 new houses completed and occupied. This can be considered as a satisfactory effort on the part of the local building industry, particularly in view of the increase in private housing, improvement works and other projects such as new schools and the like. This rate has been stepped up since 1952 when only 57 houses were completed. In 1953 the number completed was 109 and in the following year 93.

Details of the grants given for the improvement of houses have been included for the first time in this report, particularly in view of the constant reports, at conferences and in technical journals, that by far the majority of grants have been given for owner occupied houses and the Act has not had the desired effect of improving tenanted houses. It will be seen from the tabulated results that during 1954 60% were tenanted houses and in 1955 61%, and that there was very little difference in the average expenditure between tenanted and owner occupied houses.

The number of applications for grants increased following a meeting during the year of estate agents, property owners, architects and other interested parties when the whole subject was thoroughly explained and discussed and the co-operation of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was much appreciated. The majority of the estates in the area have been most co-operative and this is resulting in many old cottages being preserved and the character of the village retained. The cost in grants is heavy being £13,120 in 1954 and £19,300 in 1955. If it is found necessary to reduce this expenditure, it is suggested that rather than reducing the grant per house, it should be limited to tenanted houses.

With the emphasis at the present time on the clearance of unfit houses, it is at the same time important to remember that it is more economic to retain and improve as many older houses as possible where they are structurally sound and suitable of improvement with grant aid at reasonable expense.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING SURVEY

Cate- gory		Number Cate- gorised	Percentage of Total Surveyed
1.	Houses satisfactory in all respects	355	12.1
2.	Houses with minor defects ...	128	4.4
3.	Houses requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements ...	1917	64.9
4.	Houses for appropriate recondit- ioning	274	9.3
5.	Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable expense	276	9.3

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Year	Tenanted	Owner Occ'pied	TOTAL
Total dwellings	1955	39 (61 %)	25 (39 %)	64
Improved ...	1954	27 (60 %)	18 (40 %)	45
Total Approved	1955	£34,650 (69 %)	£15,350 (31 %)	£50,000
Expenditure ...	1954	£18,900 (60 %)	£13,100 (40 %)	£32,000
Total Grants	1955	£12,350 (64 %)	£6,950 (36 %)	£19,300
Approved ...	1954	£7,600 (58 %)	£5,520 (42 %)	£13,120
Average Expend- iture per house	1955	£885	£615	£780
	1954	£700	£730	£710
Average Grant per House ...	1955	£317	£288	£302
	1954	£280	£310	£290
Grant as % of Expenditure ...	1955	36 %	47 %	39 %
	1954	40 %	42 %	41 %

ADDITIONAL HOUSES PROVIDED

Parish	Number
Allington	2
Colsterworth	25
Foston	4
Fulbeck	6
Great Gonerby	64
Long Bennington	14
Old Somerby	2

as follows :—

Parish							No. of Houses
Allington	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ancaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Barkston	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Barrowby	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Belton and Manthorpe		...	...	...	...	...	—
Bitchfield and Bassingthorpe		...	...	...	...	...	6
Boothby Pagnell	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Braceby and Sapperton	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burton Coggles	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Carlton Scroop	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Caythorpe	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Claypole	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Colsterworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Denton	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fenton	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Foston	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Great Gonerby	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Great Ponton	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Gunby and Stainby	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Harlaxton	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Heydour	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Honington	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Hougham	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hough-on-the-Hill	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ingoldsby	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby		...	...	...	...	...	6
Little Ponton and Stroxtan...		...	...	...	...	...	1
Long Bennington	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Marston	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Normanton	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
North Witham	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Old Somerby	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Pickworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ropsley and Humby		...	...	...	...	...	30
Sedgebrook	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Skillington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
South Witham	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Stubton	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Welby	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Westborough and Dry Doddington		...	...	...	...	...	18
Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total							817

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS ON THE HOUSING REGISTER

Parish					Living or Working in Rural District	Living and Working out- side Rural District	TOTAL
Allington	...	...	...	...	12	3	15
Ancaster	...	...	...	...	25	5	30
Barkston	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Barrowby	...	...	...	...	58	25	83
Belton and Manthorpe	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Bitchfield and Bassingthorpe	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Boothby Pagnell	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Braceby and Sapperton	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Burton Coggles	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Carlton Scroop	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Caythorpe	...	...	...	...	20	—	20
Claypole	...	...	...	...	22	3	25
Colsterworth	...	...	...	...	72	3	75
Denton	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Fenton	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Foston ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	14	2	16
Great Gonerby	...	...	...	...	50	59	109
Great Ponton ...	...	...	...	...	12	3	15
Gunby and Stainby	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Harlaxton	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Heydour	...	...	...	...	8	—	8
Honington	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Hougham	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Hough-on-the-Hill	...	...	...	...	17	—	17
Ingoldsby	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
Little Ponton and Stroxtun	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Long Bennington	...	...	...	...	25	2	27
Marston	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Normanton	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
North Witham	...	...	...	...	14	—	14
Old Somerby ...	...	...	...	...	16	4	20
Pickworth	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Ropsley and Humby	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Sedgebrook	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Skillington	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
South Witham	...	...	...	...	14	2	16
Stubton	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
Welby ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Westborough and Dry Doddington	...	...	...	...	12	—	12
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir	...	...	...	...	38	5	43
Total					506	120	626

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year approval was obtained and work commenced on the completion of the sewerage and disposal works for the villages of Great Gonerby and Colsterworth. No other schemes were proceeded with due to the necessity of curtailing capital expenditure although the provision of adequate disposal works for Claypole, has since been started. This latter scheme has been waiting attention since 1938.

It is hoped that the financial position will ease sufficiently to allow for the carrying out of the prepared schemes for Ropsley, Great Ponton, Caythorpe. Long Bennington, Ancaster and South Witham in order to allow for the additional housing development in those villages and to eliminate the existing insanitary conditions.

MEAT AND FOODS

During the year 1955, the number of post-mortem examinations carried out at the six private slaughter-houses were as follows:

Oxen 455

Sheep 1527

Pigs 829

As a result of these examinations 5,314 lbs. of diseased or unsound meat have been surrendered by the butchers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse continues to be collected once every three weeks throughout the district with the exception of the Borough of Grantham's temporary housing estate at Alma Park, where the collection is weekly and from each house and not from the kerbside.

Since the present refuse collection vehicle was purchased, the number of properties in the district has increased by 874, that is an increase of 18% and in addition the salvage of waste materials has been resumed.

An indication of the extent to which this service has increased since its inception is the fact that 1500 dustbins have been sold to householders by the Council to the end of December 1955. Many of these bins were no doubt for new houses and for replacements but it is contended that by far the majority were supplied to houses where there was no receptacle.

The time has arrived when consideration should be given to the provision of a second vehicle in order to allow for the additional material to be collected and to provide a fortnightly collection.

The collection and disposal of salvage, resumed during the last six months of the year, resulted in the following materials being sold :

	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper—29 tons 10 cwts. ...	290	11	6
Metal & Rags—2 tons 5 cwts. ...	56	7	6
	<hr/>		
Total value realised ...	£346	19	0

RESULTS OF BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILKS

Parish	Number of Samples	Result		
		Positive	Negative	Not determined
Ancaster	2	—	2	—
Barkston	1	—	1	—
Colsterworth	1	—	1	—
Great Gonerby	2	—	2	—
Heydour	1	—	1	—
Little Ponton	1	—	1	—
Marston	2	—	2	—
North Witham	2	—	2	—
Wyville	3	—	3	—
Totals ..	15	—	15	—

The 3 samples taken at Wyville shewed evidence of brucellosis and the investigation of this outbreak continued during 1956.

The following premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream :—

Parish				Sale & Storage
Ancaster	...	...	...	5
Allington	...	...	...	1
Barkston	...	...	...	2
Barrowby	...	...	...	1
Burton Coggles	...	...	...	1
Caythorpe	...	...	...	3
Claypole	...	...	...	2
Colsterworth	...	...	...	1
Denton	...	...	...	1
Foston	...	...	...	4
Fulbeck	...	...	...	4
Great Gonerby	...	...	...	3
Ingoldsby	...	...	...	1
Harlaxton	...	...	...	2
Heydour	...	...	...	1
Hough-on-the-Hill	...	...	...	1
Londonthorpe & Harrowby	...	...	...	2
Long Bennington	...	...	...	4
Old Somerby	...	...	...	1
Ropsley	...	...	...	2
Skillington	...	...	...	4
South Witham	...	...	...	2
Stoke Rochford	...	...	...	1
Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir	...	...	...	2

In every case where the registration is one of sale and storage only, the ice cream is pre-packed and purchased from a large manufacturer outside the area. There are now no manufacturers in the area.

Reports upon ice cream samples submitted to the Ministry of Health Laboratory were all found to be satisfactory.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Legal proceedings were taken against two offenders for lack of back fencing of stacks when threshing. The local publicity in connection with these successful proceedings resulted in an all round improvement.

		Type of Property				
		Local Auth- ority	Dwell- ing Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (includ'g Business & Indus- trial)	TOTAL
I.	Total number of prop- erties in the District ...	70	570	480	80	6200
II.	Number of Inspections during 1952 :—					
	(a) notification ...	—	60	44	11	115
	(b) otherwise ...	70	602	200	191	1063
III.	Number of properties infested by rats :—					
	Major ...	7		6	20	33
	Minor ...	23	483	—	5	511
IV.	Number of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	71	—	—	71
V.	Number of infested properties treated ...	30	554	6	25	615
VI.	Number of Notices served under Section 4.					
	(1) Treatment... ..	—	—	—	—	—
	(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	—
VII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken by L. Authy.	—	—	—	—	—
VIII.	Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	2	—	2
IX.	Number of “ block ” control schemes ...	—	50	—	—	50

BUILDING INSPECTIONS.

The following plans were deposited for approval during the year.

Dwelling-houses — new ...	...	...	...	...	43
„ „ alterations to	...	...	...	...	116
Farm buildings — new ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ alterations to	...	...	...	...	2
Factories — new ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ alterations to	...	...	...	...	—
Other buildings — new ...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ alterations to	...	...	...	...	15

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES

Number in force (Petroleum)	...	...	...	...	93
Number in force (Carbide)	...	...	...	...	4
New licences (Petroleum) ...	...	...	...	...	3
New licences (Carbide)	...	...	...	...	—

FACTORIES ACT 1937

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	20	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	52	24	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
	72	24	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were institut'd
	Found	Re-medied	Referred to H.M. by Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	1	—
	—	—	—	1	—

